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Message Text

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42
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-05 AID-05

EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 OC-05 CCO-00 IO-10 NIC-01 /087 W
---------- 024485
O P 241210Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9064
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 1477

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS CB
SUBJECT: TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 1413

1. SUMMARY: A FRIENDLY POSITION ALONG THE MEKONG IS BEING SUBJECTED TO HEAVY ENEMY PRESSURE. THERE IS ALSO INTENSE FIGHTING NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH AS FANK IS ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR THE AREA FROM WHICH ROCKETS ARE FIRED AT POCHENTONG AIRFIELD. COMMERCIAL AIR LINE FLIGHTS INTO PHNOM PENH HAVE BEEN CANCELED THE LAST TWO DAYS. THE OIL DEPOT NORTH OF PHNOM PENH WAS SHELLED AND SOME SMALL QUANTITY OF OIL LOST. END SUMMARY.

2. A POSITION ON THE LOWER MEKONG ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE WAY BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND NEAK LUONG HAS BEEN UNDER HEAVY KC PRESSURE FOR POST TWO DAYS AND THE SITUATION IS CONSIDERED SERIOUS. THE POSITION IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SECURITY OF MEKONG RIVER CONVOYS.

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3. FANK LAUNCHED AN OPERATION JAN 24 TO THE NORTHWEST

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OF PHNOM PENH IN AN EFFORT TO CLEAR OUT THE AREA FROM WHICH THE KC HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ROCKETING POCHENTONG. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY AND THE FIGHTING DIFFICULT. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS AS YET OF CASUALTIES FOR EITHER SIDE.

4. A TOTAL OF EIGHTEEN 107MM ROCKETS WERE REPORTED LANDING WITHIN THE CITY AND IN THE POCHENTONG AREA ON JAN 23 (IN ADDITION TO THOSE REPORTED REFTEL). INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL AIRLINES ARE BECOMING MORE NERVOUS ABOUT THE ROCKETING; AIR LAOS HAS SUSPENDED ITS TWICE WEEKLY PHNOM PENH-VIENTIANE FLIGHT INDEFINITELY AND BOTH AIR CAMBODGE AND AIR VIETNAM CANCELED FLIGHTS OVER THE LAST TWO DAYS. THE LATTER TWO AIRLINES, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT SUSPENDED THEIR OPERATIONS BUT ARE DELING WITH EACH FLIGHT ON AN AD HOC BASIS.

5. IN THE 7TH DIVISION AREA NORTH OF PHNOM PENH THE KC CONTINUE TO EXERT PRESSURE AND THE ROAD BETWEEN ONE OF THE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND THE DIVISION COMMAND POST IS CUT. THE OIL DEPOT ON ROUTE 5 TEN KILOMETERS FROM PHNOM PENH TOOK AN ATTACK BY FIRE ON JAN 23 AND 8,000 GALLONS OF OIL WERE BURNED. THE FIRE IS UNDER CONTROL AND THE FACILITY OPERATIONAL.

6. IN THE 3RD DIVISION AREA NORTH AND SOUTH OF ROUTE 4, THE SITUATION EASED SOMEWHAT ON JAN 24. THE PRECEDING DAY THERE WAS HEAVY AGGRESSIVE CONTACT BY THE KC AND 2 FANK ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS WERE DESTROYED.
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